

**Points of Communication from the Council of Advice**  
**Wednesday, January 17, 2024**  
**Zoom: 9am**

Our monthly meeting was held following the established agenda pattern. As most of the official business of the meeting involved confidential personal matters, business and discussion points are brief.

The Council of Advice prayed together, especially for absent members of our team due to medical or work related issues. We reviewed our norms and had extensive discussion of the matters presented by Bishop Mark in his report. Topics were related to ongoing discussion regarding steps to support current and future housing of the Bishop of the Convocation, staffing changes due to the upcoming departure of our beloved digital ministry coordinator, and the fabulous news of the extension of our grant from ERD for ministry with refugees throughout the Convocation. Praise and gratitude were expressed for the diligent and dedicated service of those involved: Guilia Bonoldi, Maleah Rios, and Audrey Shankles.

All in the Convocation are reminded of the following events, opportunities and requests. Please publicize with your congregations and/or team members.

**-Digital ministry grants from the Convocation continue to to be available** and are part of our annual Convocation budget. These specifically oriented requests for digital ministry support may be considered separately from other granting needs. Use the form available at this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfCp3Agh1kRA5rZXQHHdsDRD7-lz2qv-HgJHdEwOJrAxpDlxw/viewform>

**- Written Liaison Reports are due before the COA February meeting-** All parish, mission, committee and commission leaders: please update your liaison member of Council. Council liaisons: please send reports to Richard Easterling by Friday, 16 February.

**- Heads of Ministry Meetings in 2024:** The **February 22-24** meetings have been announced. Agenda and housing details are forthcoming. Participants are invited from Lunch on Thursday until lunch on Saturday at the site in Sauerlach, Germany. It will be possible to reserve housing for Feb 21 or Feb 24 should travel arrangements require.

Please also save **June 13-15** for meetings. Venue still to be determined.

**- EICS Racial Justice and Beloved Community Online Forum: Saturday, February 10, 2024, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

All Council of Advice members are requested to participate. All congregants and other convocation leaders are also welcome and encouraged. Registration and information is available at:

<https://tec-europe.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlufumrpzMuGtZVefs2xEc2h6gYfoGdUFAX#/registration>

**- Praying Lent - "Pray as you can, not as you can't".**

**Scheduled for 5 Wednesdays in Lent, 21, 28 Feb, 6, 13, 20 March**

Online 19.30- 21.00 CET [Zoom link:](#)

During lent the Canon for Spiritual Development, Ali Gray, will be hosting 5 weekly sessions on zoom to help deepen our prayer lives. The sessions will be relaxed, gentle and invitational, we will practice centring prayer and journaling, the Examen, Lectio Divina, imaginative prayer and praying with art and poetry. They will last 90 minutes and will include time sharing our experiences- both struggles and joys, introduction to, and guided practice of each mode of prayer, and finish with compline.

All are welcome, beginners and experts, for one session or every week. There's no need to book just turn up.

Further information, clarification or questions- [agray@tec-europe.org](mailto:agray@tec-europe.org)

**- COMB Spirituality retreat- 3-5 May, 2024: "How do I know it's God speaking?"**

You are invited to join this convocation sponsored retreat on the Monk's Mountain above Salzburg (Johannes-Schlößl der Pallottiner, Mönchsberg 24,5020 Salzburg,Austria). This will be an opportunity to hear our excellent speaker Sr Kristina Frances SSM, to meet others from across the convocation, to rest and relax, and to make space in your life to encounter God. Further details and booking form at <https://forms.gle/jTGYYAK4Jq1oyv1T9> Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.

For further information or questions please contact The Revd. Canon Dr Ali Gray at [agray@tec-europe.org](mailto:agray@tec-europe.org)

**- COMB Discernment conference. Strasbourg 1-3 March 2024.** Leader: The Revd. Mark Barwick. Booking should be open. Contact a member COMB or Revd. Canon Dr Ali Gray as above for details.

**Next Academy for Parish Leadership (APL) event scheduled 24-26 May** at Schloss Fürstenried in Germany. The topic and leaders to be announced later. Watch the Convocation website for further details.

**Blessings for the year ahead are extended to all.**